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Useful Resources:

BUPERS 24 hour helplines:

- Active, reserve, and dependents: 1-877-414-5358
- DoN Civilians and dependents: 1-877-689-2722
- Navy Personnel Command's (NPC) Hurricane Katrina Website: www.npc.navy.mil/Katrina
- Additional Navy News on Hurricane Katrina relief efforts: www.navy.mil/local/hurricane



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Hurricane Katrina Special Edition

Navy Medicine Provides Relief and Support to Hurricane Katrina Victims

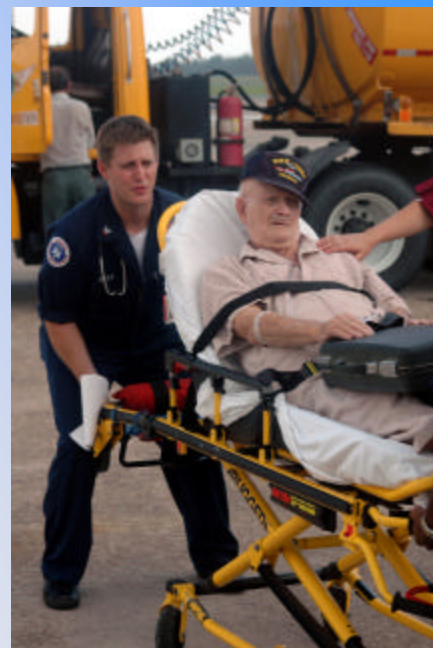
By Christine A. Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – As the winds of Hurricane Katrina subsided in the Gulf Coast region, the Navy Medicine community began planning for medical and humanitarian relief activities to support the Navy mission. The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), headquarters of Navy Medicine, coordinated the supporting relief efforts, with medical staff and supplies from Navy medical facilities across the country.

"The Navy Medicine community is prepared to provide the best in medical care and humanitarian aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina," said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, Chief of Staff, BUMED. "We are constantly training for missions, such as disaster relief, and are ready to meet the challenges before us."

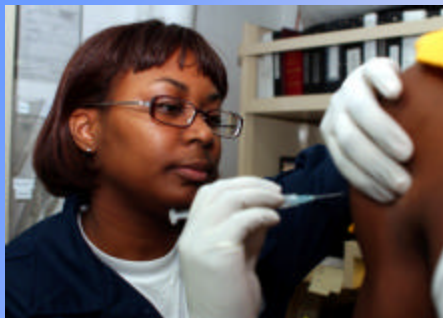
Navy Medicine is involved in many aspects of the relief effort. Medical support aboard Navy ships already in the area and the deployment of the hospital ship Comfort are just two examples of the efforts underway.

A team of 84 medical professionals based out of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla., left with the USS Bataan (LHD 5) Sept. 2. The team is now providing medical support at the New Orleans Convention Center, the New Orleans International



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michael Riley, assigned to Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville Branch Medical Center, transports retired Army World War II and Korean War Veteran Hugh Cooper to Naval Hospital Jacksonville. Cooper, a resident of Gulfport, Miss., was medically evacuated from the area after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. U.S. Navy photo by Miriam S. Gallet

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ATLANTIC OCEAN - Hospitalman Maria Armour prepares to immunize a patient in the medical department aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75). The immunizations will help protect Sailors from infection and disease during their participation in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. *U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 3rd Class Kat Smith*

Four Navy Health Clinics Hit by Katrina 'Partially Operational'

By Rod Duren, Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Four of Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola's five Gulf Coast branch health clinics in New Orleans and Mississippi, which faced the brunt of Hurricane Katrina, are "partially operational," the hospital's engineer reported Sept. 3.

The Naval Station Pascagoula, Miss., clinic was the lone facility deemed non-functioning, although personnel continue to provide care to area residents in the county's only off-base shelter.

Lt.j.g. Jason Adams indicated that the Construction Battalion Center facility at Gulfport was on partial power and providing primary care and pharmacy services to the Sea-

bee contingents and about 1,400 people in the base shelter.

The three New Orleans clinics at Naval Support Activity (NSA) and Naval Air Station (NAS) Belle Chasse were also partially powered and providing care to a total of 350 people overall. The NAS facility has become a staging ground for Army and Coast Guard helicopter airlifts.

NH Pensacola is the parent command of 12 branch health clinics in four states. The hospital has established an Incident Command Center to assist in the coordination of supplies, equipment and personnel, and communication among the many branches of military and facilities involved in providing the much-needed medical care to the members of the military family in the affected areas.

Naval Hospital Pensacola Deploys Additional Relief to Storm-Ravaged Gulf

By Journalist 1st Class (AW) Russell Tafuri, Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Six Hospital Corpsmen were sent Sept. 1 to relieve personnel at the Naval Support Activity (NSA) New Orleans and Naval Air Station (NAS) Belle Chasse health clinics.

The corpsmen departed for New Orleans via helicopter from NAS Pensacola armed with supplies, pharmaceuticals, equipment and fresh outlooks.

Their mission, according to Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Don Nelson, Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola's senior enlisted leader for branch clinics, was a matter of taking care of those who stood the watch through the storm while others evacuated, and maintaining care for those who needed it in that area.

"We're sending supplies like critical-need medications and equipment, as well as personnel who will function to relieve the

stay-behind parties at the clinics there who have been there through the storm," said Nelson. "They rode it out in shelters there and have been providing first aid to as many as 350 people. We need to get them the supplies they need and get them fresh personnel relief. We need to get there to help out any way we can. And we need to do it now."

Altogether, more than 20 NH Pensacola personnel have deployed since the hurricane struck to provide relief and medical supplies for their colleagues in Gulfport and Pascagoula, Miss., and the three New Orleans-area clinics.

The outlying clinics are all outpatient clinics that have no critical-care patients, and are housed in facilities that sustained minor damages but are still able to allow some operational capabilities.

The latest six NH Pensacola personnel deployed to New Orleans include Hospitalman Nicole Wilson, from Naval Air Technical Training Center Pensacola's branch clinic.



GULFPORT, Miss. - Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Michael Brown entertains a 5-year-old Hurricane Katrina evacuee at the storm shelter aboard Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, while fellow corpsman, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michael Wenzel prepares to check her blood glucose level. *US Navy photo by Rod Duren, Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs*

She has relatives in New Orleans and Mobile, Ala., all of whom are currently staying in the Pensacola area.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime for me - helping people who need help. I get to step up to the plate and help those who need help," said Wilson."

Bataan Continues Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

By Journalist Joanne De Vera, USS Bataan Public Affairs

ABOARD USS BATAAN, Gulf of Mexico - The multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) completed its seventh day of Hurricane Katrina humanitarian relief efforts in the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast region Sept. 5.

Four MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 15, based out of Corpus Christi, Texas, five MH-60 Seahawks from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 28, based out of Norfolk, Va., and Bataan's air department have conducted flight operations almost around the clock to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

"We've been extremely busy this past week with more tasks than there are hours in a day," said Cmdr. Jeffrey Bocchicchio, Bataan's air boss. "The shortest day the department had was 16 hours long, but they understand that everything we do is critical to the mission."

"All of the divisions and Combat Cargo working together allows the ship to have a 24-hour flight deck with the manning for 10-hour days," said Bocchicchio.

To date, the two squadrons have transported 1,613 displaced people and delivered more than 100,000 pounds of cargo.

Bataan also provided 8,000 gallons of fresh drinking water to the ravished Gulfport, Miss., area. Sailors filled eight 500-gallon water bladders with the ship's potable water and HM-15's MH-53 helicopters transported them from Bataan to shore.

The ship also demonstrated its sea power when a landing craft unit from Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 2, based out of Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., traveled up the Mississippi River to conduct a survey of the river just days after the hurricane ripped through the area. The LCU was gone for three days before returning to the ship's welldeck.

"Besides looking for navigational aids, our secondary mission was to help evacuate people and help the first responders, such as the Coast Guardsmen and police," said Chief Warrant Officer William Fish, ACU 2 detachment officer in charge.

A team of 84 medical professionals from the Navy's Casualty Receiving and Treatment Ship Team (CRTS) 8, based out of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla., embarked Bataan Sept. 2 to assist in hurricane relief medical operations. Sept. 3-4, 56 members of CRTS 8 left Bataan to provide medical support to Hurricane Katrina survivors at the New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans International Airport and Biloxi High School in



GULF OF MEXICO – Hospital facilities aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5). For combat support, as well as non-combatant evacuation and other humanitarian missions, LHDs have hospital facilities second only to the Military Sealift Command (MSC) Hospital Ships Mercy and Comfort, including six fully-equipped medical operating rooms, three dental rooms, and hospital facilities capable of caring for as many as 600 patients. *U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Pedro A. Rodriguez*

Mississippi.

Navy Medicine continued...

(Continued from page 1)

Airport and at a high school in Biloxi, Miss.

USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) set sail from Baltimore for the Gulf of Mexico Sept. 2. Comfort is expected to provide medical support to the Joint Force Maritime Component Command (JFMCC) by providing medical care to patients while allowing local area hospitals time to repair from storm damage while still meeting the health care needs of the civilian population.

Comfort has unique capabilities for humanitarian relief missions including helicopter lift capability, advanced medical equipment, berthing and personnel support, as well as supplies to support medical operations ashore.

The Comfort crew of more than 500 is initially slated to function at a 250-bed capacity and can expand if re-

quired. The crew includes Sailors from the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md. and many other Navy medical commands across the country.

According to National Naval Medical Center Commanding Officer Rear Adm. M. Robinson Jr., "Humanitarian assistance is something we (Navy Medicine) will do more and more of. This is part of what we do in military medicine."

According to Hunter, BUMED will continue to monitor the situation in the Gulf Coast and work closely with Commander Fleet Forces Command (CFFC) and JFMCC to provide additional medical and humanitarian support as needed.

Naval Air Station Meridian Lends Aid to Katrina Victims

By Journalist 1st Class Sybil McCarrol, Naval Air Station Meridian Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR STATION MERIDIAN, Miss. - Naval Air Station (NAS) Meridian is currently lending its resources to those in need as thousands of Hurricane Katrina victims and aid workers clamor to piece together lives and communities ripped apart.

As of Sept. 5, 975 evacuees have checked into the base and are being housed on cots in the Naval Reserve Center, bachelor housing,

and base family housing. Numbers fluctuate, as people check in and out on a daily basis.

"NAS Meridian has a living, breathing hurricane and disaster preparedness plan that improves each time it goes into effect. I have to thank my small, hard-working Seabee crew, who has been working non-stop around the clock since Katrina hit," said Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) (AW) David Dollins, NAS Meridian Disaster Preparedness Officer. "They have made this base habitable for

residents and evacuees and workable for all of us to do our jobs."

Health-wise, evacuees from the coast will be berthed in an air-conditioned, 500-bed hospital field tent and another hospital unit set up in one of the base hangars equipped with 500 more cots with mattresses, along with shower and sanitary field facilities.

The base is poised to receive approximately 1,000 additional evacuee patients.

Comfort Departs to Aid Katrina Victims

From USNS Comfort Public Affairs

USNS COMFORT, At Sea - Hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) set sail for the Hurricane Katrina-affected region of the Gulf of Mexico Sept. 2 to provide medical support and humanitarian aid for victims of the recent natural disaster.

Comfort will join several other Navy ships currently deployed to the area. Comfort has unique capabilities for humanitarian relief missions including helicopter lift capability, advanced medical equipment, a wide range of medical skills, berthing and personnel support, as well as supplies to support medical operations ashore.

Comfort and its more than 500-person crew is initially slated to function at a 250-bed capacity. In addition to the 59 active-duty Sailors and 63 civil service mariners who make up the reduced operating staff (ROS) aboard the ship, the crew has been augmented with Sailors from the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., as well as several other Navy military treatment facilities.

Comfort loaded more than 245,000 lbs. of supplies in preparation for the departure. It will take the 894-foot ship about five days to reach the U.S. Gulf Coast region, with a stop in Mayport, Fla. Comfort will stop in Mayport to load an additional 57 tons of medical supplies,

as well as 300 additional medical and support personnel.

National Naval Medical Center Commanding Officer Rear Adm. Adam M. Robinson Jr., echoed Brewer's sentiments and thanked the crew for everything they are doing and are about to do.

"Humanitarian assistance is something we will do more and more of," Robinson said. "This is part of what we do as a part of military medicine. You have given much of yourself and to national service."



MAYPORT, Fla. - The Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) pulls into Naval Station Mayport, Fla., to take on supplies on its way to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. *U.S. Navy by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Ian S. Elias*

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Medical Team Deploys with USS Bataan to Aid Hurricane Victims

By Loren Barnes, Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Eighty-four medical personnel from Naval Hospital (NH) Jacksonville, Fla. boarded buses to Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Fla. Sept. 1 to rendezvous with the USS Bataan (LHD 5). From there, the ship sails to New Orleans to provide support to relief efforts for Gulf Coast residents impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

The medical personnel, including a broad range of physicians, nurses and hospital corpsmen, are assigned to one of the hospital's deployable platforms, Casualty Receiving and Treatment Ship Team 8 (CRTS 8). That team is just one of

several deployable platforms maintained by NH Jacksonville as part of its dual mission. The hospital's staff stands ready to place "muddy boots" on the ground wherever and whenever the Navy needs, while continuing to deliver world-class health care to beneficiaries at home.

Anesthesiologist Cmdr. Joseph Paulding is serving as the team's officer in charge. Paulding said he feels good about his mission. "It's true that we will go anywhere we need to go," he said. "When you go to help someone in your own country, in your own backyard, it gives you a good feeling inside that you're doing the right thing, for a really good purpose." Paulding pointed out that the team includes just about every specialty that

might be needed in such a mission: general surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, family practice providers, obstetrics/gynecology specialists, anesthesiologists and more.

In other relief efforts-related news, NAS Jacksonville received forty-two victims of the hurricane who were medically evacuated to the Jacksonville area Sept. 4.

Nearly every public hospital in the city was on call to receive patients. Navy assets were also part of the effort, providing Sailors from NAS Jacksonville and its tenant commands, who served as litter bearers on the flight line and NH Jacksonville emergency response personnel, who assisted in coordination of the evacuation evolution.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - A U.S. Navy Sailor and an emergency medical technician assist in transporting one of 43 Hurricane Katrina survivors who were transported from New Orleans to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., aboard a U.S. Air Force Reserve Command C-130 Hercules aircraft. *U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class David Didier*



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